

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 SS-15 PM-03 PRS-01 A-01 SCA-01

SSO-00 /034 W  
----- 122765  
R 130707Z APR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5251

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: AEMR, VS  
SUBJECT: E AND E: NEW YORK TIMES

REF: STATE 084053

1. YOU MAY INFORM CLIFTON DANIEL THAT WE DO HAVE SPECIFIC EVACUATION PLANS THAT INCLUDE THE VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES (INCLUDING FAMILIES) OF THE TIMES IN SAIGON, SHOULD THAT BECOME NECESSARY.

2. YOU MAY ALSO INFORM DANIEL THAT WE MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN GVN APPROVAL BUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GVN WOULD NOW PERMIT THE DEPARTURE OF THE VIETNAMESE NATIONALS EMPLOYED BY THE TIMES AND OTHER AMERICAN MEDIA BY CHARTERED PLANE VANISHED WHEN THE GVN BECAME AWARE OF THE ATTEMPT ALREADY MADE BY THE AMERICAN MEDIA WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH EMBASSY, TO DO JUST THAT ILLEGALLY.

3. YOU MAY ALSO INFORM DANIEL AS A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM HIS FELLOW NORTH CAROLINIAN THAT AMBASSADOR MARTIN SAYS THAT IF SITUATION REQUIRING MASS EVACUATION SHOULD ARISE, THE VIETNAMESE NATIONALS EMPLOYED BY THE TIMES WILL LEAVE VIET-NAM BEFORE HE DOES, AND THAT HE FULLY INTENDS TO COME OUT.

4. FOLLOWING FYI ONLY: ON APRIL 6 EMBASSY PRESS OFFICE CONTACTED ALL AMERICAN NEWS ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED IN SAIGON AND ASKED THAT THEY PREPARE AND PROVIDE LISTS OF THEIR LOCAL EMPLOYEES FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBASSY USE IN EVACUATION PLANNING. WE ASKED THAT THEY PROVIDE

NAMES, POSITIONS, HOME ADDRESS AND, IF POSSIBLE, TELEPHONE NUMBERS. WE DID NOT ASK FOR NAMES OF DEPENDENTS BUT ASSURED THEM THAT FAMILIES OF EMPLOYEES WOULD BE FACTORED INTO PLANNING ON AVERAGE BASIS. IN EACH CASE WE URGED THAT LISTS BE TREATED WITH DISCRETION.

5. SAIGON NEW YORK TIMES BUREAU WAS, OF COURSE, INCLUDED IN THIS EXERCISE. REPORTER FOX BUTTERFIELD PROVIDED LIST OF EMPLOYEES ON APRIL 7. IN A LETTER OF APRIL 9, ACTING BUREAU CHIEF MALCOLM BROWNE ASKED THAT EMBASSY INCLUDE FAMILY OF HIS VIETNAMESE-BORN WIFE WITH NYT CONTINGENT AND WE HAVE DONE SO. WE BELIEVE THIS ASSURANCE MAY LESSEN OR ELIMINATE LOCAL TIMES BUREAU PRESSURE ON NEW YORK.

6. MR. BROWNE AND MR. BUTTERFIELD HAVE BEEN ASSURED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BY THE EMBASSY THAT THE EMPLOYEES OF THE NYT WOULD BE INCLUDED IN PLANS.

7. AFTER RECEIPT OF REFTEL EMBOFF CALLED BROWNE APRIL 13 TO CONFIRM THAT HIS LISTS PROVIDED US WERE COMPLETE. HE REPLIED THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME REVISIONS. WE URGED HIM TO PROVIDE UPDATED LISTINGS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

8. WE HOPE DEPARTMENT MAY FIND OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT IN LOW KEY TO NYT, WP AND OTHERS THAT THE ONE SINGLE ACTION THAT COULD MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECT SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PLANS WOULD BE ANY EXTENSIVE REVELATION OF DETAILS OF EVACUATION PLANNING ALONG LINES OF STORY WP OBERDORFER NOW OBVIOUSLY ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP.  
MARTIN

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Reference:** 75 STATE 084053  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** E AND E: NEW YORK TIMES  
**TAGS:** AEMR, VS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006